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Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DODE-00 EB-11 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

TRSE-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 COME-00 AID-20 L-03 MC-02 PM-09

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DRAFTED BY AF/ S; DDHAUGHT: SLW
5/17/73 EXT 28434
APPROVED BY AF/ S: JWFOLEY
EB/ EWT: SSGOODMAN
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R 171956 Z MAY 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

S E C R E T STATE 094527

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD SF
SUBJECT: L-100 AIRCRAFT FOR SAFAIR

REF: A. PRETORIA 917; B. STATE 37929

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. SUMMARY: LOCKHEED HAS APPLIED FOR LICENSE TO EXPORT THREE MORE L-100-30 AIRCRAFT TO SAFAIR FREIGHTERS. DEVELOPMENTS SINCE ISSUANCE PREVIOUS LICENSES RAISE QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER DEPARTMENT SHOULD CONCUR IN FURTHER SALES. EMBASSY' S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS REQUESTED.

2. LOCKHEED- GEORGIA HAS APPLIED FOR EXPORT LICENSE TO SELL THREE L-100-30 AIRCRAFT, RELATED TECHNICAL DATA AND SPARES TO SAFAIR FREIGHTERS. TOTAL VALUE OF TRANSACTION WOULD BE DOLLARS 27-7 MILLION. STATED END- USE IS " SCHEDULED AND CHARTER TRANSPORTATION OF CARGO." CONDITIONS OF PREVIOUS TRANSACTIONS OF THIS TYPE WOULD APPLY IN PRESENT CASE,
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I. E., AIRCRAFT WOULD BE FOR CIVIL/ COMMERCIAL USE ONLY, WOULD BE OPERATED BY CIVILIAN PILOTS, WOULD NOT BE USED IN RHODESIA TRADE, AND WOULD NOT BE REEXPORTED WITHOUT PRIOR AUTHORIZATION OF DEPT. OF COMMERCE.

3. SINCE REPORT OF POSSIBLE USE OF MILITARY PILOTS BY SAFAIR (REF B), DEPT. HAS HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH LOCKHEED

REPRESENTATIVES WHO GAVE THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF USE AND METHOD OF OPERATION OF AIRCRAFT PREVIOUSLY SOLD TO SAFAIR AS FOLLOWS:

A. SAFAIR IS CURRENTLY OPERATING AIRCRAFT WITH PERSONNEL ON ONE YEAR ASSIGNMENT FROM SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE, WHICH IS IDENTICAL PROCEDURE FOLLOWED BY SAA. PILOTS HOLD CIVIL LICENSES AND ARE CHOSEN BECAUSE OF THEIR FAMILIARITY WITH THE AIRCRAFT. THIS IS A NECESSITY, SINCE THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF PERSONNEL WITH REQUIRED TRAINING. NOT CLEAR WHAT TYPE OF LEAVE FROM SAAF THESE PILOTS HAVE.

B. AIRCRAFT ARE BASED AT MILITARY INSTALLATION FOR TIME BEING FOR ECONOMIC REASONS. HOWEVER, SAFAIR OPERATIONS ARE COMPLETELY SEPARATE FROM MILITARY OPERATIONS AND INTENTION IS TO ESTABLISH SEPARATE FACILITIES WITH ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT.

C. AIRCRAFT ARE CURRENTLY UNDER- UTILIZED AS PRIMARY MISSIONS HAVE BEEN PILOT FAMILIARIZATION AND LOGAIR/ QUICK-TRANS CONTRACT OPERATIONS. SAFAIR IS PLANNING EXPANDED COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS AND PERCENTAGE OF LOGAIR/ QUICKTRANS OPERATIONS WILL ACCORDINGLY DECREASE.

D. AIRCRAFT HAVE NEVER FLOWN TO RHODESIA.

4. IN ADDITION TO FOREGOING, LOCKHEED REPS ALSO VOLUNTEE-RED INFORMATION THAT CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO FULL AND OUTRIGHT PURCHASE OF SAFAIR BY SOUTH AFRICAN ARMAMENTS BOARD. REPS DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS IDEA ORIGINATED WITH ARMAMENTS BOARD, SAFAIR OR SAFMARINE NOR COULD THEY COMMENT ON LIKELIHOOD THAT TRANSACTION WOULD ACTUALLY TAKE PLACE.

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5. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION POSTS CAN PROVIDE ON USE AND METHOD OF OPERATION OF AIRCRAFT. WOULD BE ESPECIALLY USEFUL TO KNOW WHETHER SAAF PILOTS WORKING FOR SAFAIR ARE EMPLOYED UNDER SAME TERMS AS THOSE WORKING FOR SAA. ALSO NEED TO KNOW WHETHER THERE REAL POSSIBILITY ARMAMENTS BOARD WILL TAKE OVER SAFAIR AND, IF

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SO, IMPLICATIONS THIS WILL HAVE FOR END- USE AND MODE OF OPERATION OF AIRCRAFT. FYI: OUR UNDERSTANDING, BASED ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY LOCKHEED AND SAFAIR IN PREVIOUS LICENSE APPLICATION, IS THAT TERM " LOGAIR/ QUICK-TRANS" MEANS TRANSPORT OF GOVERNMENT CARGO ON CONTRACT BASIS. THIS IS PRESUMED TO INCLUDE SOME MILITARY CARGO BUT NOT SIGNIFICANTLY IN EXCESS OF SUCH CARGO CARRIED BY

OTHER CIVIL AIRLINES WITH GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

6. DEPARTMENT IS POUCHING BACKGROUND MATERIAL ON PREVIOUS LICENSES ISSUED. MEANWHILE, WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING ANY INFORMATION OR COMMENTS POSTS CAN PROVIDE WHICH WOULD BE HELPFUL IN CONSIDERATION OF PRESENT APPLICATION. RUSH

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE094527
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SLW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730546/aaaajhro.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A.PRETORIA 917, B.STATE 37929
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980217
Subject: L-100 AIRCRAFT FOR SAFAIR
TAGS: ETRD, SF
To: CAPE TOWN
PRETORIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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